

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A gaming terminal for playing a wagering game, comprising:  
a basic game having a plurality of symbols that indicate a randomly selected  
outcome of said basic game, said randomly selected outcome being  
selected in response to a wager input;  
5 an input device for identifying players who are playing at said gaming terminal  
and who are eligible for a progressive payout; and  
wherein said progressive payout has a first payout and a second payout, said  
first and second payouts being funded by a portion of said wager input,  
said first payout capable of being awarded only during a first time  
10 period and, if not awarded during said first time period, being  
randomly awarded to a player who competed for said first payout  
during said first time period, said second payout capable of being  
awarded only during a second time period and, if not awarded during  
said second time period, being randomly awarded to a player who  
15 competed for said second payout during said second time period.
2. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said players become eligible for said  
progressive payout when said players play said basic game.
3. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said players become eligible for said  
progressive payout when said players achieve a certain outcome in said basic game.
4. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said players become eligible for said  
progressive payout when said players present an additional wager input to become  
eligible for said progressive payout.
5. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said players become eligible for said  
progressive payout when said players are identified at said gaming terminal.

6. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said input device accepts tracking cards presented by said players before playing said basic game.
7. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said input device accepts personal identification numbers presented by said players before playing said basic game.
8. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said input device accepts biometric markers presented by said players before playing said basic game.
9. The gaming terminal of claim 1, further comprising a first display device for displaying said randomly selected outcome, and a second display device for displaying a player who was randomly awarded said progressive payout after said first time period or said second time period.
10. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said gaming terminal is connected to signage, said signage having a display device for displaying said first and second progressive payouts.
11. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said gaming terminal is connected to signage, said signage having a display device for displaying a player who was randomly awarded said progressive payout after said first time period or said second time period.
12. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said player winning said random award is selected at a live drawing.
13. The gaming terminal of claim 12, wherein said selection of said player winning said random award at said live drawing is displayed by live video feed to a display device attached to said gaming terminal.
14. The gaming terminal of claim 12, wherein said selection of said player winning said random award at said live drawing is displayed by live video feed to a display device attached to signage that is connected to said gaming terminal.

15. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said first time period is not equal to said second time period.

16. The gaming terminal of claim 15, wherein said first time period is equal to a week and said second time period is equal to a month.

17. The gaming terminal of claim 15, wherein said first time period is equal to a month and said second time period is equal to a year.

18. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said first payout is not equal to said second payout.

19. The gaming terminal of claim 1, wherein said basic game includes outcomes that increase a player's chance of being randomly awarded said progressive payout after said first time period or said second time period.

20. A method for playing a wagering game, comprising:  
conducting a basic game having a plurality of symbols that indicate a randomly selected outcome of the basic game, said randomly selected outcome being selected in response to a wager input;  
5 presenting a progressive payout for which players are eligible, said progressive payout being funded by a portion of said wager input;  
identifying said players who are playing at one or more gaming terminals for said progressive payout during a selected time period; and  
wherein, in response to said progressive payout not being awarded during said  
10 selected time period, randomly selecting one of said players identified as a player competing for said progressive payout during said selected time period and awarding at least a portion of said progressive payout to the selected player.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said players become eligible for said progressive payout when said players play said basic game.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said players become eligible for said progressive payout when said players achieve a certain outcome in said basic game.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein said players become eligible for said progressive payout when said players present an additional wager input to become eligible for said progressive payout.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein said players become eligible for said progressive payout when said players are identified at said one or more of said gaming terminals.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein said identifying includes reading tracking cards presented by said players.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein said identifying includes reading personal identification numbers presented by said players.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein said identifying includes reading biometric markers presented by said players.

28. The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying on display devices said randomly selected one of said players.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said display devices are attached to signage that is connected to said one or more of said gaming terminals.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein said display devices are located on said one or more of said gaming terminals.

31. The method of claim 20, wherein said randomly selecting one of said players is performed at a live drawing.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said randomly selecting one of said players at a live drawing is displayed by live video feed to a display device attached to said one or more of said gaming terminals.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said randomly selecting one of said players at a live drawing is displayed by live video feed to a display device attached to signage that is connected to said one or more of said gaming terminals.

34. The method of claim 20, further comprising halting gaming sessions at said one or more of said gaming terminals to perform said randomly selecting one of said players.

35. The method of claim 20, wherein said selecting and awarding of said at least a portion of said progressive payout to the selected player includes selecting and awarding more than one player for said progressive payout.

36. A gaming system for playing a progressive game having a progressive payout, comprising:

a progressive game controller for controlling said progressive game having said progressive payout;

5 a plurality of gaming terminals coupled to said progressive game controller, each of said plurality of gaming terminals having an input device for receiving player-identification information for players competing for said progressive payout;

10 a database for storing said player-identification information for each player who plays said progressive game at one of said plurality of gaming terminals during a selected time period, said database being coupled to said progressive game controller; and

15 wherein said progressive game controller randomly selects one of the players from said database in response to said progressive payout not being awarded during said selected time period, said selected one of said players receiving at least a portion of said progressive payout.

37. The gaming system of claim 36, wherein said input devices accept a tracking card presented by said player.

38. The gaming system of claim 36, wherein said input devices accept a personal identification number presented by said player.

39. The gaming system of claim 36 wherein said input devices accept a biometric marker presented by said player.

40. The gaming system of claim 36, further comprising a first display device present at each of said plurality of gaming terminals for displaying said randomly selected outcome, and a second display device present at each of said plurality of gaming terminals for displaying said randomly selected player receiving said  
5 progressive payout.

41. The gaming system of claim 36, further comprising signage connected to said plurality of gaming terminals, said signage including a display device for displaying said progressive payout.

42. The gaming system of claim 36, further comprising signage connected to said plurality of gaming terminals, said signage including a display device for displaying said randomly selected player receiving said progressive payout.

43. The gaming system of claim 36, wherein said selection by said progressive game controller of said randomly selected player is displayed by live video feed to a display device attached to each of said plurality of gaming terminals.

44. The gaming system of claim 36, wherein said selection by said progressive game controller of said randomly selected player is displayed by live video feed to a display device attached to signage that is connected to said plurality of gaming terminals.

45. A method for playing a wagering game having a progressive payout, comprising:

providing a plurality of gaming terminals, each of which presents said wagering game for achieving said progressive payout;

5 funding said progressive payout from a portion of wagering inputs received at said plurality of gaming terminals;

identifying a player who is playing for said progressive payout during a selected time period, said player not be awarded said progressive payout;

10 concluding said wagering game of said player at said one of said plurality of gaming terminals; and

awarding said progressive payout to said player at a later time when said player is not present at any of said plurality of gaming terminals.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein said player is identified by presenting a tracking card.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein said player is identified by presenting a personal identification number.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein said player is identified by presenting a biometric marker.

49. The method of claim 45, wherein said concluding includes instructing said player that said player is still eligible for said progressive payout.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein said instructing of said player that said player is still eligible for said progressive payout occurs at said one of said plurality of gaming terminals.

51. The method of claim 45, further comprising randomly selecting said player after said concluding of said wagering game.

52. The method of claim 45, wherein said awarding of said progressive payout to said selected player at a later time includes displaying the name of said player on a display device at each of said plurality of gaming terminals.

53. The method of claim 45, wherein said awarding of said progressive payout to said selected player at a later time includes displaying the name of said player on a display device attached to signage that is connected to each of said plurality of gaming terminals.